Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/039,158	SURAZSKI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Salman Ahmed	2616	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *Pre Brief conference Request filed on 12/12/2006*.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *10-12,18-20,22,25-36,38, 40-42,44,46 and 47 (Currently renumbered to 1, 3, 2, 4, 6, 5, 7-11, 14-16,13,17, 12,18, 19 ,21,20 and 22-26 respectivly)*.

3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
   a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
      1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
      2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .
      3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

   * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
   (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
      1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
   (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

   Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____ .
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☒ Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ryan S. Loveless on 1/17/2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

The claims have been amended as per the attachment titled "Appendix".

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 10-12,18-20, 22, 25-36,38, 40-42, 44, 46 and 47 are allowed.

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Salman Ahmed whose telephone number is (571)272-8307. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 am - 5:00 pm. .

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hassan Kizou can be reached on (571) 272-3088. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Art Unit 2616

SA
1/17/2007

HASSAN KIZOU
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600

APPENDIX

In the Claims:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of Claim 9, and further comprising:~~ A method for managing communication impairments between Internet Protocol devices, comprising:

detecting masking of an echo signal by a first endpoint, the echo signal generated by the first endpoint for transmission to a second endpoint;

in response to the detection, sending a notice signal to the second endpoint, the notice signal indicating that the echo signal is being masked;

in response to the notice signal, prioritizing, over the masked echo signal, any outgoing signal transmitted by the second endpoint;

detecting a bypass of a non-linear processing block by a second signal, the second signal generated by the first endpoint for transmission to the second endpoint, wherein the non-linear processing block is operable to mask the second signal;

sending a second notice signal to the second endpoint indicating the detection of the bypass; and

in response to the second notice signal, accepting the second signal at the second endpoint.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of Claim 9~~, A method for managing communication impairments between Internet Protocol devices, comprising:

detecting masking of an echo signal by a first endpoint, the echo signal generated by the first endpoint for transmission to a second endpoint;

in response to the detection, sending a notice signal to the second endpoint, the notice signal indicating that the echo signal is being masked;

in response to the notice signal, prioritizing, over the masked echo signal, any outgoing signal transmitted by the second endpoint and;

wherein detecting that the echo signal is being masked comprises detecting a pending masking of the echo signal.

12. (Original) The method of Claim 10, wherein detecting the bypass of the non-linear processing block comprises detecting a pending bypass of the non-linear processing block.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) ~~The system of Claim 15~~, A system for managing communication impairments, comprising:

a Internet Protocol device operable to:

determine that noise has been transmitted by the Internet Protocol device; and

in response to the determination, send a notice signal, the notice signal indicating that the noise is transmitted;

an endpoint coupled to the Internet Protocol device through an Internet Protocol network, the endpoint operable to grant, in response to the notice signal, priority to any outgoing signal over the noise; and

wherein the Internet Protocol device is further operable to detect a transmission of a communication signal instead of the noise, and in response to the determination, send a second notice signal to the endpoint indicating that the communication signal is transmitted.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~The system of Claim 15,~~ A system for managing communication impairments, comprising:

a Internet Protocol device operable to:

determine that noise has been transmitted by the Internet Protocol device; and

in response to the determination, send a notice signal, the notice signal indicating that the noise is transmitted;

an endpoint coupled to the Internet Protocol device through an Internet Protocol network, the endpoint operable to grant, in response to the notice signal, priority to any outgoing signal over the noise; and

wherein the Internet Protocol device is further operable to detect a pending transmission of the communication signal instead of the noise, and in response to the determination, send the second notice signal to the endpoint indicating that the communication signal is pending transmission.

20. (Original) The system of Claim 18, wherein the endpoint is operable to accept the communication signal in response to the second notice signal.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) ~~The system of Claim 15,~~ A system for managing communication impairments, comprising:

a Internet Protocol device operable to:

determine that noise has been transmitted by the Internet Protocol device; and

in response to the determination, send a notice signal, the notice signal indicating that the noise is transmitted; and

an endpoint coupled to the Internet Protocol device through an Internet Protocol network, the endpoint operable to grant, in response to the notice signal, priority to any outgoing signal over the noise; and

wherein the endpoint is a Internet Protocol speakerphone comprising an acoustic echo canceller and a speakerphone controller, wherein the acoustic echo canceller is operable to suppress the signal and the speakerphone controller is operable to receive the notice signal and direct the acoustic echo canceller to ignore, at the speakerphone, the masked echo transmitted by the Internet Protocol device.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) ~~The system of Claim 23, and further comprising:~~A system for managing communication impairments, comprising:

a control means for receiving a notice indicating a transmission of a masked echo and in response to the notice, generating a first signal;

a communication means for receiving the first signal, and in response to the first signal, giving priority, over the incoming masked echo, to any outgoing signal transmitted from the communication means;

a means for receiving a second notice indicating a transmission of a communication signal instead of the masked echo and in response to the second notice, generating a second signal; and

a means for receiving the second signal, and in response to the second signal, accepting the communication signal.

26. (Original) The system of Claim 25, and further comprising a means for sending the second notice.

27. (Original) A method for managing communication impairments between an Internet Protocol phone and an Internet Protocol device, comprising:

receiving a status signal at the device indicating that the phone is operating as a speakerphone; and

in response to the status signal, suppressing transmission of any comfort noise to the phone.

28. (Original) The method of Claim 27, and further comprising sending the status signal to the device, the status signal indicating that the phone is operating as a speakerphone.

29. (Original) The method of Claim 27, and further comprising:

receiving a second status signal at the device, the second status signal indicating that the phone halted operation as the speakerphone; and

in response to the second status signal, transmitting the comfort noise to the phone.

30. (Original) The method of Claim 27, wherein operating as the speakerphone comprises conducting half-duplex operation.

31. (Original) The method of Claim 27, wherein the device comprises a second Internet Protocol phone.

32. (Original) The method of Claim 28, wherein sending the status signal comprises sending the signal with a Real Time Transport Protocol signal.

33. (Original) The method of Claim 27, and further comprising inserting a silent signal into any noise transmitted to the phone.

34. (Original) The method of Claim 28, wherein the status signal is sent before the phone begins operating as a speakerphone.

35. (Previously Presented) A method for managing communication impairments between an Internet Protocol phone and an Internet Protocol device, comprising:

receiving a status signal at the device indicating that the phone is operating as the speakerphone;

in response to the status signal, inserting a silent signal into an outgoing noise transmitted to the phone;

determining that the phone is operating in a handset mode by determining that the phone is pending operation in the handset mode;

transmitting a second status signal to the device indicating that the phone operating in a handset mode;

in response to the second status signal, inserting a comfort noise into the outgoing noise transmitted to the phone; and

wherein determining that the phone is operating in the handset mode comprises determining that the phone is pending operation in the handset mode.

36. (Original) The method of Claim 35, and further comprising sending the status signal.

37. (Cancelled)

38. (Original) The method of Claim 35, wherein the status signal indicates that the phone is pending operation as the speakerphone.

39. (Cancelled)

40. (Original) The method of Claim 36, wherein the status signal is sent with a Real Time Transport Protocol stream.

41. (Previously Presented) A system for managing communication impairments between Internet Protocol devices, comprising:

a communication device operable to transmit a signal;

a non-linear processor coupled to the communication, the non-linear processor operable to insert a silent signal into the signal; and

a controller coupled to the non-linear processor, the controller operable to direct the non-linear processor to insert the silent signal in response to receiving a status signal

an endpoint operable to send the status signal indicating that the endpoint is operating as a speakerphone; and

wherein the non-linear processor is operable to insert a comfort noise into the signal and the controller is operable to command the non-linear processor to insert the comfort noise in response to a second status signal, the second status signal indicating that the endpoint halted operating as a speakerphone.

42. (Original) The system of 41, wherein the status signal indicates that an endpoint is conducting half-duplex operation.

43. (Cancelled)

44. (Original) The system of [[43]] 41, wherein operating as the speakerphone comprises conducting half-duplex operation.

45. (Cancelled)

46. (Original) The system of Claim [[43]] 41, wherein the endpoint is operable to send the status signal with a Real Time Transport Protocol signal.

47. (Original) The system of Claim [[43]] 41, wherein the endpoint is operable to send the status signal before beginning to operate as the speakerphone.

48-51. (Cancelled)